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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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LANA C. SEIVERS, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

To: Directors of Schools
Special Education Supervisors
Gifted Coordinators

From:  Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner for Special Education

Date: September 10, 2004

Re: Gifted Reevaluation Rule

In the fall of 2003 a Gifted Study Committee was formed by Governor Bredesen to address reform in gifted education. As a result of recommendations from this Study Committee, proposed standards have been put into place through the TN State Board of Education. One of these proposed standards relates to a change in the Reevaluation Process for Gifted Students, eligible through the State of Tennessee Special Education Guidelines.

The recommendation relating to Reevaluations of Intellectually Gifted proposed to the TN State Board of Education in April, 2004, reads as follows:

Add subparagraph (a) to rule 0520-1-9-.05 (6) so it reads: Each local school system shall ensure that an individual evaluation of each child eligible for special education is conducted every three (3) years or more frequently if conditions warrant or if the child's parent or teacher requests a reevaluation.

(a) Intellectually gifted students in grades 7-12 are excluded from reevaluation rule 0520-1-9-.05 (6) unless requested by any member of the IEP team.

The change in the reevaluation standard/rule for Intellectually Gifted Students has now passed two readings by the State Board of Education. **To be finalized and become a rule, the rule has to continue through the Government Operations Process, which could take from six to nine months.** Until further correspondence is received from this office regarding changes made, you should continue using reevaluation procedures currently in place.

cc: Lana Seivers, Commissioner of Education
Ann Sanders, Director of Assessment, Information, and Research